



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

A

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,652	08/22/2005	Konrad W. Brandt	57477US004	6971
32692	7590	02/14/2006	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			PATEL, HARSHAD C	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			2839	

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/519,652	BRANDT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harshad C. Patel	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/22/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/23/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 8 - 19 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim 8. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 8 - 19 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simmons (US 5,011,424).

Regarding claim 1, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector comprising an outer housing 70 having at least one opening 40 for a multiple wire cable to pass therethrough, at least one inner housing 10 for arranging therein termination sockets for the wires of the multiple wire cable, the inner housing comprising: a front end 11 for contacting a device to be electrically connected to the wires of the multiple wire cable, and a receiving end 20 for receiving the wires of the multiple wire cable, wherein the inner housing comprises a circumferential extending between the front and receiving ends of the inner housing, and at least one cover 22 for

Art Unit: 2839

covering the receiving end of the inner housings, wherein the cover and the circumferential wall of the inner housing both comprise electrically conductive material, and wherein the outer housing 70 comprises at least one receiving opening in which the at least one of the inner housing is arranged.

Regarding claim 2, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, the inner housings are movably arranged within the receiving opening of the outer housing.

Regarding claim 3, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, the inner housings are located within the receiving opening of the outer housing with a play for allowing tilting movements of the inner housings within the receiving openings.

Regarding claim 4, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, the inner housing is pivotable around a pivot axis parallel to the plane of the receiving opening.

Regarding claim 5, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, the inner housing is pivotable with respect to pivot axis orthogonal to each other and parallel to the plane of the receiving opening.

Regarding claim 6, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, discloses, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, at least one resilient means 40 is arranged between the at least one of the inner housings and outer housing to bias the respective inner housing in a direction out of the receiving opening of the outer housing.

Art Unit: 2839

Regarding claim 7, Simmons, figs 1 - 3, a multiple wire cable connector wherein, the resilient means 40 is a helical spring element, a beam-like spring element or an element comprising compressible material.


Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harshad C. Patel whose telephone number is 571 272 8289. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F ; 8.00 AM TO 5.00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. C. Patel can be reached on 571 272 2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner
HCP
2/3/06


J. ADAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322